UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1999/109
15 July 1999

Original: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1999
Geneva, 5-30 July 1999
Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 1999 session (New York, 1-18 June 1999)

Summary

The present report contains one draft resolution and three draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By the draft resolution, the Council would request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session containing an analysis of the organizational structure and technical, personnel and financial resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section necessary to implement the mandate of the Secretariat as contained in parts 10 and 11 of Council resolution 1996/31 and urge the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to provide the resources necessary to the Section to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

By draft decision I, the Council would grant consultative status to [illegible] non-governmental organizations which had applied.

By draft decision II, the Council would withdraw the consultative status of Christian Solidarity International.

By draft decision III, the Council would authorize the Committee to hold a resumed session for a period of two weeks in order to complete the work of its 1999 session.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 which update the procedure on the consultative relationship between the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations community resulting from the broader and more substantive involvement of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large and appreciative of the breadth of expertise of non-governmental organizations and their unique capacity to support the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Appreciative also of the need to encourage greater participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Mindful of the significantly large increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status that has taken place in recent years and conscious that the number will continue to increase in the foreseeable future,

Mindful also of the demand the expansion of non-governmental organization participation has on the workload and resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Recalling paragraph 68 of Council resolution 1996/31 regarding the requirement for adequate Secretariat support to fulfil the mandate defined for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to carrying out the wider range of activities in which the enhanced involvement of non-governmental organizations is envisaged,

Reaffirming the vital role of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat, [1] in accordance with resolution 1996/31, and emphasizing the need to ensure

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[1] E/1998/43 and Corr.1.

that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section be able to operate efficiently in carrying out its mandate as well as in initiating new activities, as required, at the optimal level of performance,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session containing a comprehensive analysis of the organizational structure and technical, personnel and financial resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, commensurate with the increased workload and the level of responsibility, necessary to implement the Secretariat's mandate, as contained in Council resolution 1996/31, parts 10 and 11;

2. Urges the Secretary-General, in view of the increased workload and responsibilities of the Section, as an interim measure, to provide the resources necessary within existing resources, without diverting resources from development programmes, to the Section to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

2. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides to grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

General consultative status

Congregations of St. Joseph

International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University

International Union of Economists

Legion of Goodwill

Special consultative status

Abantu for Development

African Development Institute

African Refugees Foundation

Akina Mama Wa Afrika

American Correctional Association

American Indian Law Alliance

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Armenian Assembly of America

Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas

Association for the Advancement of Education

Association algérienne d'alphabetisation

Association de défense des tunisiens a l'étranger

Association feminine tunisie 21

Association nationale de soutien aux enfants en difficulté et en institution

Association de sauvegarde des monuments et sites

Association for Social Advancement

Association tunisienne des villages d'enfants S.O.S.

Australian Council for Overseas Aid

Befrienders International

Black Sea University Foundation

Campaign Life Coalition

Caribbean Medical Association

Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research and Education

Centre for Economic and Social Rights

Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, India

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, The

Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice

Coalition of Activist Lesbians-Australia

College Art Association

Colombian Commission of Jurists

Conscience and Peace Tax International

Cooperative Housing Foundation

Coordination immigrés du sud du monde/C.I.S.M. Veniti

Council of American Overseas Research Centres

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevolkerung

Environmental Women's Assembly

Ethiopian Youth League

Europe 2000

European Youth Forum

Family of the Americas Foundation, Inc.

Family Planning Association of Turkey

Family Planning Movement, the "Vrancea"

Family Welfare Foundation of India

Fédéración Española de Asociaciones Pro Vida

Federation de Tunis de solidarité sociale

Feminine Press, The

Femme-avenir

FOKUS-Forum for Women and Development

Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la nature et l'homme

Foundation Projekta for Women and Development Services (Stichting Projecta)

François-Xavier Bagnoud Centre for Health and Human Rights

Global Exchange

Global Volunteers

Handicap International

Human Rights Council of Australia

International Black Women for Wages for Housework

International Confederation for Family Support

International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents

International Federation for Family Development

International Longevity Centre-USA

International Ontopsychology Association

International Relief Association

International Women's Judges Foundation

International Women's Muslim Union

Islamic Heritage Society, Inc.

Japan Federation of Bar Associations

Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation

Life Ethics Educational Association

LINK-UP (QLD)

Med Forum

Nadi Al Bassar North African Centre for Sight and Visual Sciences

National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund

Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Most Venerable

Organization nationale de l'enfance tunisienne

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Inc.

Pag-Aalay Ng Puso Foundation

Paz y Cooperación

Peace Action

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Rural Development Leadership Network

Rural Women Environment Protection Association

Secours populaire libanais

Several Sources Foundation

Société tunisienne des sciences medicales

Society for the Upliftment of the Masses

Sociologists for Women in Society

Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotics Association (SLNA)

Stree Aadhar Kendra

Swedish Association for Sex Education

Syriac Universal Alliance, The

United Nations Association of San Diego

VRIDHI

Vrouwen Allantie

Women's Human Rights International Association

Women's World Organization for Rights, Literature and Development

Roster

Association fond d'aide internationale au développement

Church Women United

Groupe de recherche et d'action pour le bien-être social

National Federation of Youth Organizations in Bangladesh

National Organization of Circumcision Resource Centres

Social Development Association

United Nations Foundation, Inc.

Draft decision II

Withdrawal of consultative status of Christian Solidarity International

The Economic and Social Council decides to withdraw the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Christian Solidarity International.

Draft decision III

Resumed 1999 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of two weeks in order to complete the work of its 1999 session.

II. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 689th to 697th, 699th to 701st and 707th to 713th meetings, from 2 to 10 and 15 to 18 June 1999. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/1999/R.2 and Add.1-14 and 17).

A. Applications for consultative status deferred from the 1998 session

4. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, had decided to refer the application of the International Committee for Peace and Human Rights to the Committee for further consideration (Council decision 1995/305, subpara. (d)). At its 1996 session, the Committee had taken note of a letter from the organization stating that it would be appropriate for the Committee to suspend consideration of its application, without prejudice, for one year (see E/1996/102, para. 5). At its 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the application of the International Committee for Peace and Human Rights to its 1998 session. The Committee had also decided that the organization should be asked to provide the information requested by the Committee at its 1996 session. At its 1998 session, the Committee decided to defer the application to its 1999 session.

5. At its 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee decided to defer the application of the International Committee for Peace and Human Rights to its resumed 1999 session.

6. At its 1996 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the application of the World League for Freedom and Democracy to its 1997 session. At its 1997 session, the Committee had taken note of a letter from the organization asking that consideration of its application be deferred to the 1998 session. At its 1998 session, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the application to its 1999 session.

7. At its 713th meeting, the Committee took note of a letter from the World League for Freedom and Democracy indicating that it wished to withdraw its application for consultative status.

8. At its 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the Jewish Agency for Israel to its 1998 session.

9. Also at its 713th meeting, the Committee had before it a letter from the Permanent Mission of Israel transmitting a letter it had received from the Jewish Agency for Israel which stated that the organization was requesting the withdrawal of its application for consultative status.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Lebanon and the Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as by the Observer for Palestine, in which they noted the withdrawal of the application, stating that the Jewish Agency for Israel was part of the Israeli Government and not a non-governmental organization.

11. At its 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer the application of the Assyrian National Congress to its 1998 session. At its 1998 session, the Committee decided to defer further consideration of the application to its 1999 session.

12. At its 713th meeting, the Committee decided to defer the application of the Assyrian National Congress to its resumed 1999 session.

13. At its 1998 session, the Committee had decided to defer to its 1999 session the applications for consultative status of the following organizations:

Association nationale de soutien aux enfants en difficulté et en institution (ANSEDI)

Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms

Europe 2000

European Council of WIZO Federations

European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association

Foundation Projekta for Women and Development Services

Fundación Colosio

Human Rights Alliance

International Federation of Inspection Agencies

International Group of P&I Clubs

International Women Judges Foundation

Israel Women's Network

Local Government International Bureau

Women's Exchange Programme International

14. At its 690th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee took note of a letter from the European Council of WIZO Federations indicating that it wished to withdraw its application for consultative status.

15. At its 691st meeting, on 3 June, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that special consultative status be granted to Association nationale de soutien aux enfants en difficulté et en institution (ANSEDI), Europe 2000, Foundation Projekta for Women and Development Services and the International Women Judges Foundation.

16. Also at its 691st meeting, the Committee decided to defer the application of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms to its resumed 1999 session.

17. At its 713th meeting, the Committee took note of a communication from Fundación Colosio, A.C. that it wished to withdraw its application.

18. Also at its 713th meeting, the Committee decided to defer the applications of Israel Women's Network, Local Government International Bureau and Women's Exchange Programme International (now named E-Quality) to its resumed 1999 session.

19. Also at its 713th meeting, the Committee decided to close the application file of Human Rights Alliance and to inform the organization that it could submit a new application.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer the applications of the European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association, the International Federation of Inspection Agencies and the International Group of P&I Clubs as the Committee felt that further discussion was necessary regarding those applications as to whether their defining characteristics were in strict conformity with Council resolution 1996/31.

B. New applications for consultative status

21. At its 1998 substantive session, the Committee had decided to defer the application of Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights to a later date and requested the organization to submit a revised application using the correct terminology and nomenclature recognized by the United Nations.

22. At its 692nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee had before it the new application of Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights and decided to defer further consideration of the application to its resumed 1999 session, pending the issuance of official documentation and the receipt of a response from the organization to questions posed by the Committee.

23. At its 693rd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee had before it the application of Human Rights in China.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of China made the following statement:

"The Chinese delegation has carefully read the application submitted by Human Rights in China (HRIC) and has studied the case of this organization from many angles. Based on our understanding of the case, we believe that HRIC is not qualified for any form of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, chiefly for the following reasons:

"1. HRIC is a New York-based organization founded in March 1989, whose members are all living outside China. Why, we wonder, has such a non-governmental organization taken so intense an interest in the human rights situation in China? Why has it shown no concern for the human rights situation in the country where the overwhelming majority of its members now reside?

"2. The overwhelming majority of the members of HRIC have never set foot on Chinese soil. And, though some of its members have, indeed, come from China, yet they have not gone back to China even once in recent years. Because of their total ignorance of the realities in China, they are totally disqualified to make any comments on the human rights situation in my country. What the organization has been up to since its establishment is not providing the Chinese authorities with bona fide suggestions and observations. Rather, it is bent on collecting so-called information based on hearsay, even lending credit to, concocting and disseminating rumours, and using them as a basis to launch unjustifiable attacks on the Chinese Government.

"3. Among members of the Board of Directors of that organization are criminals who have been duly punished by judicial organs, criminals who have fled the country but have remained on the wanted list of the Chinese Government, and prisoners who, because of their physical conditions, have been granted medical paroles. The so-called human rights activities they are engaged in have all been born out of their personal vendetta against the Chinese Government and have nothing whatsoever to do with the human rights of the Chinese people in general.

"4. So far, HRIC has done nothing practical to improve or promote human rights in China. Despite its alleged goal of promoting and improving the human rights situation in China, the organization has never made any practical effort towards improving the human rights of the Chinese people other than attacking and maligning the Chinese Government.

"China is now in a critical period of reform, openness and economic development and relentless efforts are being made by the Chinese Government and the people of China as a whole to achieve these goals. Since HRIC claims to be dedicated to the realization of human rights for the Chinese people, I would like to ask then: What work has that organization done for the realization of the civil and political

rights among the Chinese people? Nothing! And what work has it done to improve the economic, social and cultural rights among the Chinese people? Nothing, either!

"Last year, China was hit by the greatest flood in more than a hundred years and suffered economic losses that totalled over 20 billion dollars, with an affected population of 20 million. While many Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil societies and individuals offered their sympathies to the Chinese people and provided as much humanitarian assistance as was within their power, HRIC did not give one cent to support the Chinese people in their battle against the disaster.

"The right to life is the core of all human rights. Last May, when the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia was bombed, our diplomatic personnel suffered grave losses in human lives and property. Many heads of State and Government, civil societies and individuals expressed just indignation and condemnation for the bombing incident as well as condolences and sympathies to the surviving families of the victims. And, yet, this organization that claims to devote itself to the improvement and promotion of human rights in China remained indifferent and aloof, without saying a word about this act of atrocity perpetrated against its fellow countrymen.

"5. HRIC is closely linked to the secessionists in Tibet and has regularly participated in the activities of Tibetan secessionist organizations. According to the World Journal, a Chinese newspaper with a considerable circulation in North America, Mr. Xiao Qiang, Executive Director of HRIC, took part in a rally organized by Tibetan secessionists in front of the United Nations premises last March and made a speech there, in which he advocated independence for Tibet, thus openly engaging himself in an act to split up a sovereign State.

"These facts have proved that HRIC is essentially not a 'non-governmental organization'; rather, it is a political group whose goal is to overthrow the legitimate Government of a Member State of the United Nations. I believe that no Member State will support a political organization aimed at overthrowing the legitimate Government of China, unless that Member State harbours the same secret intent. Everything that organization has done and is doing runs counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. As such, it fails to meet the criteria set forth in Council resolution 1996/31, and the Committee must reject its application.

"In view of the very nature of HRIC and the activities it engages in, we are firmly opposed to granting it any form of consultative status with the Council. We hope that this meeting will decide by consensus to reject its application."

25. Subsequently, at the same meeting, the representative of China made the following statement:

> "We have listened carefully to the statements by the preceding delegations as well as the very long 'report' given by the organization. Now, the information and facts about Human Rights in China are very clear. Facts show that Human Rights in China is not a non-governmental organization which concerns itself with the human rights situation in China, but a politically motivated organization with the purpose of overthrowing the legitimate Government of a Member State of the United Nations. What deserves special attention is that the organization is involved in the secessionist activities against China. The activities of this organization clearly run counter to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the articles of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, which clearly states that non-governmental organizations should not engage in activities 'contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations'. The facts are very obvious, and we cannot understand why the United States delegation insists on supporting an organization which aims at overthrowing the Chinese Government.
>
> "In view of the above, we believe that the Committee should safeguard the solemnity of the Charter of the United Nations and Council resolution 1996/31 by taking immediate action to reject the application of Human Rights in China for consultative status."

26. After the deliberations, the representative of China requested a vote on that delegation's proposal not to recommend consultative status to Human Rights in China. The proposal was adopted by a roll-call vote of 13 to 3, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Against: France, Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Chile, Romania.

27. After the proposal was adopted, the following statement was made by the representative of the United States of America:

> "June 4, 1999 - a sad date - the tenth anniversary of the events in Tiananmen Square, which remain unexplained, and also a date we shall recall as one on which this Committee chose to overlook not just the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, but also the recent significant piece of human rights legislation - the Defenders Declaration. Today, this Committee chose to deny accreditation to a non-governmental organization which embodies and advances these objectives, despite the fact that this non-governmental organization

meets all the technical criteria which this Committee is mandated to examine. I would like to emphasize, once again, that my Government in no way questions the sovereignty of China; we do, however, question this decision of the Committee."

28. At its 694th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee decided to defer the application of Association pour la fondation Mohsen Hactroudi MoHa to its resumed 1999 session pending a response to several questions posed by Committee members and by observers.

29. At its 695th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee decided to defer further consideration of the application of Christian Solidarity Worldwide to its resumed 1999 session, as the Committee felt there were outstanding questions which needed to be answered first before a decision could be made. The organization also requested, by a letter addressed to the Secretariat, that its application be deferred to the resumed 1999 session.

30. Also at its 695th meeting, the Committee decided that the application of the Institute for International Social Development was ineligible, on technical grounds, to be considered at its current session, because the organization failed to meet the requirement of being in existence for at least two years, as stated in paragraph 61 (h) of Council resolution 1996/31. It was therefore suggested that it be considered by the Committee at its session in the year 2000. The Committee also requested the organization to submit its financial report for 1998.

31. At its 696th meeting, on 8 June, the Committee took note of a communication from the Korean Women's Development Institute informing the Committee that it wished to withdraw its application for consultative status.

32. At the 707th meeting, on 15 June, the representative of the United States of America requested a vote on the proposal to recommend special consultative status to the Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas. The proposal was adopted by a roll-call vote of 15 to 1, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: France, Ireland, Romania.

33. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Ireland, France, Algeria, Tunisia and Cuba. The representative of Cuba stated that, once again, the Committee was in a difficult position to face a vote for bilateral political reasons put forward by the United States.

34. At its 712th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that special consultative status be granted to the American Correctional Association. The representative of Cuba stated that although her delegation was not opposed to the granting of status to that organization, it nevertheless had concerns regarding its independence from government influence.

35. Also at its 712th meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that special consultative status be granted to the International Women's Muslim Union. The representative of the United States of America stated that her delegation wished to disassociate itself from the decision of the Committee as it was not convinced that the organization was independent of government influence.

36. At its 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee decided, in accordance with paragraph 24 of Council resolution 1996/31, to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the United Nations Foundation be granted Roster status. That decision was taken following the receipt of a request by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an exception to be made regarding the requirement, as contained in paragraph 61 (h) of resolution 1996/31, that an applicant organization needed to be in existence for at least two years as at the date of receipt of the application by the Secretariat.

37. Also at its 713th meeting, the Committee considered the application of Vishva Hindu Parishad and decided to defer it to its resumed 1999 session pending the issuance of official documentation containing the application as well as a response to questions posed.

38. The following applications for consultative status were deferred to the resumed 1999 session pending:

(a) Receipt of further information from the organization:

Africa for Christ International

African Community Resource Centre

Annai Educational Society

Association socio-culturelle de bienfaisance de Bender Djedid

Ahmedabad Women's Action Group

Charitable Society for Social Welfare

Global Environment Centre Foundation

Human Rights International Alliance

Institute for Security Studies

International Prostitutes Collective

Kashmiri American Council

National Association of Women Organizations in Uganda

North America Taiwanese Women's Association

Universidad Latinoamericana de la Libertad Friedrich Hayek

Voluntary Action Network, India

(b) Further consideration by the Committee:

Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez

Global Eco-village Network, The

Korea International Volunteer Organization

Human Rights Guard

It was also agreed that comments made in relation to those applications would be conveyed to the organizations concerned;

(c) Further discussion owing to the fact that their defining characteristics were not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31:

Association internationale des traducteurs de conférence

Confederation of German Forest Owners Associations

German Advisory Council on Global Society Change

Southern States Police Benevolent Association

Syrian Orthodox Church in America

Working Party "Brussels 1952"

39. The following organizations were approved, ad referendum, pending the availability of the official documentation to Committee members:

American Life League

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

International Buddhist Relief Association

International Metalworkers Association

III. REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

40. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 704th and 705th meetings, on 14 June. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the quadrennial reports for the period 1994 to 1997 on the activities of 163 organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1999/2 and Add.1-17).

41. The Committee took note of the reports of 153 non-governmental organizations.

A. Review of quadrennial reports deferred from the 1998 session

42. At its resumed 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial reports of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations and the Mutual Assistance of Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL) (now known as Regional Association of Oil and Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean) to its 1998 session. At its resumed 1998 session, the Committee once again decided to defer the reports of those two organizations to its 1999 session as the requested clarifications had not yet been provided by either of those organizations.

43. At its 705th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Mutual Assistance of Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL) (now known as Regional Association of Oil and Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean).

44. Also at its 705th meeting, the Committee decided to keep pending the quadrennial report of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations until after its discussion of the issue of accreditation.

B. Review of quadrennial reports before the 1999 session

45. At its 704th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee requested clarification on several reports.

46. With regard to the report of the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.1), a member of the Committee requested clarification regarding the reference, under "Membership", to "204 countries".

47. With regard to the report of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.2), a member of the Committee requested clarification on the organization's accreditation procedures at the Commission on Human Rights and, in particular, details on the accreditation of a representative of Human Rights in China. Another member of the Committee requested the names of the recipients of the RFK Human Rights Award in the Sudan.

48. With regard to the report of the Society for Threatened Peoples (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.2), a member of the Committee requested information on the activities of the organization with respect to its work with the United Nations. He also requested clarification on its activities with regard to Tibet. Furthermore, he noted that, though it was a small organization, it had accredited 20 to 30 people to the Commission on Human Rights. As such, the Committee member wanted clarification on whether the organization examined the credentials of those participants. Another Committee member requested more information on the activities of the organization. He also requested information on how it reached its conclusion on Chechnya, what contacts it had with representative organizations in the region and what was its source of information for Chechnya, Crimean Tartars and the Caucasus. He also wanted to know the organization's position on its 1995 oral statement to the Commission on Human Rights in reference to the Chittagong Hills. The Committee member requested a list of the organization's 1996 and 1997 oral statements to the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the name of both the representatives and affiliates making those statements. He also requested information regarding the status of the affiliate with relationship to the non-governmental organization at the time consultative status with the Council was granted, as well as its current status with the non-governmental organization.

49. With regard to the report of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.2), several members of the Committee requested clarification on the relationship between the organization and the European Council of WIZO Federations. Another Committee member requested clarification on the preamble of the quadrennial report concerning the objectives and regional plan of action.

50. With regard to the report of the Foundation of the Rights of the Family (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.3), the Committee, in taking note of the report, also sought clarification on the organization's sources of funding, in particular the details of the funding provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs of Spain.

51. With regard to the report of the World Muslim Congress (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.5), a member of the Committee requested clarification on the organization's efforts in the Afghan conflict and its involvement with the United Nations and other political factions in resolving that conflict. The member also requested a list of individuals and/or affiliated organizations who had spoken under the organization's banner at the Commission on Human Rights, a list of the subject matter of those statements or interventions, and information regarding the affiliates' status at the time consultative status with the Council was granted.

52. With regard to the report of the International Alliance of Women (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.6), a member of the Committee noted that the quadrennial report should reflect United Nations terminology with respect to "Bashkiria".

53. With regard to the report of the International Institute of Non-Aligned Studies (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.10), the Committee, in taking note of the report, sought additional information on the organization's aims and objectives.

54. With regard to the report of Christian Democratic International (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.13), a member of the Committee requested an explanation of the organization's activities in Cuba. The representative of Cuba made the following statement:

> "My delegation has carefully studied the report presented by Christian Democratic International and has a number of concerns which we wish to share with the Committee.
>
> "The report contains references of a very general nature regarding activities carried out by this organization in Cuba which supposedly 'promote positive change in Cuba'.
>
> "Permit me, Mr. President, to briefly describe these activities:
>
> "Christian Democratic International has assumed a position of interference towards Cuba. In recent conferences they have made statements that question the legitimacy of the Government of Cuba and of the Cuban electoral system, demanding the legitimization of small groups that act in Cuba financed and directed from abroad against the Government of Cuba.
>
> "One leader of this organization, based in Spain, after having assumed a negative attitude with regard to our Government, has become the Madrid branch of the so-called National Cuban-American Foundation, sadly famous for its ties with terrorist activities against Cuba with the objective of removing the constitutionally elected Government.
>
> "More recently, Christian Democratic International included in its membership the Cuban Christian Democratic Party in the first trimester of this year at the last Congress of this organization.
>
> "This organization has its headquarters in Miami, United States. It involves a party that recently accepted the membership of a small group based in Cuba, directed and financed from abroad to act against the legitimate Government democratically elected by the people of Cuba. Cuba wishes to place on record that it does not recognize nor accept the existence of any branch of this organization in our country.
>
> "My delegation considers that the actions of Christian Democratic International towards Cuba contradict the conduct which an organization must have when in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.
>
> "As we have indicated previously, we are profoundly concerned when an organization with consultative status departs from the principles established in Council resolution 1996/31."

55. With regard to the report of the International Federation of Human Rights (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.14), a member of the Committee requested that the organization explain its policy and modalities of accreditation of its representatives to the Commission on Human Rights, particularly during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

56. With regard to the report of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.15), a member of the Committee requested information to support the organization's claim of observer status with non-aligned countries. The Committee member also requested details of the organization's relationship with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and a list of activities with the Commission on Human Rights.

57. With regard to the report of the All Pakistan Women's Association (see E/C.2/1999/2/Add.16), a member of the Committee requested information on the policy of the organization, if any, on "honour killings", a list of the statements the organization has made at the Commission on Human Rights, as well as a list of representatives and the subject matter of those statements for the past three to four years.

IV. REVIEW OF THE METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE: IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1996/31, INCLUDING THE PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND DECISION 1995/304

A. Consideration of special reports

58. The Committee considered sub-item 6 (a) of its agenda at its 698th, 705th, 706th and 711th meetings, on 9, 14, 15 and 17 June. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/1999/3) containing the special reports of the following organizations: International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, World Confederation of Labour, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" and World Federation of Democratic Youth.

World Confederation of Labour and International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

59. At its 1998 resumed session, the Committee had before it the special reports of the World Confederation of Labour and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran was not satisfied with the reports that had been provided by the organizations and had requested additional information as well as the presence of representatives of the two organizations at the 1999 session of the Committee.

60. At its 705th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee reviewed the special report of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers. After the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement, in which he stated that he was satisfied with the report of the organization, the Committee took note of the special report.

61. At the same meeting, the Committee reviewed the special report of the World Confederation of Labour. The representative of the organization briefed the members of the Committee and responded to questions raised. He stated that the World Confederation of Labour had to comply with its Declaration of Principles of non-violence and self-determination. It had conducted an investigation with the French authorities of the persons accredited and found that they had legal status in France. The World Confederation of Labour was unable to obtain evidence as to the accusations by the delegation of the

Islamic Republic of Iran. The representative of the organization proposed a dialogue with the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the representative of the World Confederation of Labour for his clarification.

62. At the 706th meeting, on 15 June, the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the proposal for a dialogue with the World Confederation of Labour and asked the Committee to request a new special report from that organization for its next session to answer questions raised. The Committee agreed to the request.

Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" and World Federation of Democratic Youth

63. At its 1998 session, the Committee had requested the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" and the World Federation of Democratic Youth to submit special reports to its 1999 session.

64. At its 706th meeting, on 15 June, the representative of Colombia stated that the two organizations cited had abused their status by accrediting members linked to an armed group in Colombia. He noted that the two organizations had stated that they had no ties with armed groups. He also noted and appreciated that the individuals subject to the complaint had not been accredited in the Commission on Human Rights during the 1999 session. He stated that this abuse did not constitute a pattern of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in paragraph 57 (a) of Council resolution 1996/31 as a reason for suspension of the consultative status with the Council. However, he stated that the non-governmental organization must be warned against committing accreditation abuses with regard to its consultative status and must be made to abide by Council resolution 1996/31. He also expressed the view that the Committee must remain vigilant regarding the practices of accreditation, without unduly interfering in the legitimate work of non-governmental organizations.

65. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the two special reports.

Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (PAIS)

66. At its 1998 session, the Committee had decided to request the Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (PAIS), a non-governmental organization with Roster status, to submit a special report to the Committee at its 1999 session.

67. At its 706th meeting, on 15 June, the Committee had before it the quadrennial report for 1994-1997 of the Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (PAIS), as well as a letter responding to allegations made by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America regarding the solicitation of business ventures. Information on the matter was circulated among the Committee members by the representative of the United States of America. She requested that the Committee authorize the forwarding of that information to the organization in question as well as request comments from the organization as her delegation believed that the organization was unaware of the solicitation of funds being carried out by persons representing themselves as members of the organization.

68. The Committee agreed to the request and asked the Secretariat to forward the information to the Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (PAIS) along with the request for comments.

Christian Solidarity International

69. On 28 April 1999, the Government of the Sudan filed a complaint regarding the accreditation of Christian Solidarity International (CSI), a non-governmental organization with Roster status. According to the complaint, "the Commander of the terrorist separatist group of Southern Sudan", was given the floor to speak at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva under the umbrella of CSI. The leader of the rebel group started his intervention by identifying himself as such. The Government of the Sudan considered the action by CSI of allowing the commander to speak under its name to be a "flagrant breach and abuse of status". Consequently, by letter of 28 April 1999, the Government of the Sudan requested that the organization's consultative status with the Economic and Social Council be withdrawn. The Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations instructed the Secretariat to forward the complaint to the members of the Committee, which was done on 3 May 1999. The complaint by the Government of the Sudan was sent to CSI under a covering letter from the Secretariat on 2 June 1999. CSI was requested to provide a special report on the incident. Some delegations wanted to have a substantive discussion on the issue before requesting the organization to provide a special report. CSI responded on 7 June 1999, stating that there was "insufficient time to prepare the 'special report' that you requested". Subsequently, by letter of 9 June 1999, CSI was requested to provide the Committee with an explanation in writing of the incident, rather than a special report. In addition, it was suggested that the organization might wish to send a representative to respond to questions raised by the Committee.

70. At the 698th meeting, on 9 June, the representative of the Sudan made a statement in which he presented his delegation's complaint against Christian Solidarity International to the Committee. In view of the potential gravity of the reported incident, the Committee agreed that such a situation could warrant a recommendation to withdraw the consultative status of the organization, subject to its response in accordance with paragraph 56 of Council resolution 1996/31.

71. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested that the following statement be included verbatim in the present report:

> "The delegation of the United States believes, according to paragraph 61 (c) of Council resolution 1996/31 and previously established practices of the Committee, that the Committee has made a procedural error in requesting CSI to submit a response to the complaint lodged by the Sudanese delegation or send a representative of CSI to appear before the Committee which will take a decision by 18 June 1999. In the past, the Committee has requested non-governmental organizations to submit a special report and respond to allegations of the complaint. They may send a representative to appear before the Committee to respond to members' questions."

72. At its 711th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee reviewed the responses by CSI dated 7 and 15 June. Several Committee members found the responses unsatisfactory. Procedural objections were raised to the discussion of the question, since the item had not been previously announced in the Journal of the United Nations. The representative of the United States of America raised a point of order and moved for adjournment of the discussion on those grounds, after which, in accordance with rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the motion for adjournment was put to a vote. The motion was rejected by a roll-call vote of 1 to 13, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Abstaining: Chile, France, Ireland, Romania.

73. The complaint by the Sudan was then taken up by the Committee. Delegations agreed on the gravity of the complaint, indicating that non-governmental organizations should be seriously reminded of their responsibility in the choice of their representatives. Delegations also agreed on the need to address questions of accreditation by non-governmental organizations in consultative status. A number of delegations supported the Sudan's request for the withdrawal of the organization's status with the Council. Other delegations felt that due process had not been observed and suggested that a special report should be requested for the resumed session of the Committee. The representative of the United States requested that the decision on the recommendation to withdraw status should be presented in writing by the complaining party prior to a vote on the matter. The representative of the Sudan noted that his delegation had already submitted a written request on 28 April 1999 which had been forwarded to all members of the Committee on 3 May 1999.

74. A procedural discussion followed regarding the competence of the Committee to withdraw the status of CSI. The representative of the United States of America made a motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to adopt a decision withdrawing the consultative status of CSI in view of the absence of a special report from the organization, as stipulated in paragraph 55 of Council resolution 1996/31. In accordance with rule 56 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the motion was put to a vote. The motion was adopted by a roll-call vote of 11 to 1, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Chile, France, Ireland, Romania, Russian Federation.

75. After the vote, a statement was made by the representative of India in which he noted that the Committee was competent to decide on the issue since the Committee had requested CSI to provide an explanation of the incident and to send a representative to appear before the Committee. Furthermore, paragraph 56 of Council resolution 1996/31 provided the non-governmental organization with the opportunity to make a further response even after a decision on the recommendation for withdrawal of status was taken.

76 The proposal of the Sudan to recommend the withdrawal of the consultative status of CSI was then put to a vote. The proposal was adopted by a roll-call vote of 12 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see chap. I above, draft decision II). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Chile, France, Ireland, Romania.

77. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Ireland, France, India, the United States of America and Chile.

78. The representative of Ireland stated that the delegation would have preferred a temporary suspension of status for the organization pending the submission of a special report to the resumed session of the Committee.

79. The representative of France also said that the delegation wanted to have a full report from the organization before voting, and that it would therefore abstain.

80. The representative of the United States of America noted that something serious had occurred at the Commission on Human Rights but that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had not followed due process, since the item was taken up without prior public notice in accordance with the Committee's previously agreed procedures. Moreover, the representative of CSI was not present, and the decision to withdraw its consultative status was being taken without a special report. Procedures of the Committee were well established, and the present proceeding was going against the rule of law. He would therefore vote against the Sudanese proposal.

81. The representative of Chile recognized the unfortunate situation which had occurred in Geneva, but regretted that due process had not been observed since the organization in question was not able to address the Committee. Therefore, the delegation of Chile could not endorse the proposal.

Complaint by the delegation of Algeria

82. At the 713th meeting, on 18 June, the representative of Algeria asked the Committee to review documents that it had regarding an incident that had taken place during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights involving the International Federation of Human Rights. The Committee had already deferred that quadrennial report to its resumed session owing to

outstanding questions about its accreditation procedures. The representative of Algeria agreed to circulate to members of the Committee documentation on the incident that took place on 15 April 1998 on the premises of the Palais des Nations. The Ambassador of Algeria had been approached by three individuals who accosted him in a violent manner. One of the three individuals was accredited by the International Federation of Human Rights. The Committee agreed to request the organization to submit a report on the incident to its resumed session.

B. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

83. The Committee considered sub-item 6 (b) of its agenda at its 702nd, 710th and 713th meetings, on 11, 17 and 18 June. The question of strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat was recognized as being of great concern as the efficient functioning of the Committee was dependent upon the work of the Section. The Committee was concerned about the negative impact an inadequately equipped secretariat could have upon its functioning now and in the future.

84. At its 702nd meeting, on 11 June, the Committee had before it an informal paper containing a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organization Section of the Secretariat".

85. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, France, Cuba, China, Algeria, the Sudan, the Russian Federation, Lebanon, Pakistan, the United States of America, Ireland, Tunisia, Senegal and Colombia.

86. At the 710th meeting, on 17 June, statements were made by the representatives of Ethiopia, India, the Sudan, Ireland, the United States of America, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Algeria, France, Tunisia, Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon and Bolivia and the observer for Japan.

87. At the 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I).

88. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of India, the United States of America, Cuba, the Sudan and Tunisia and the observer for Japan.

C. Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations

89. The Committee considered sub-item 6 (c) of its agenda at its 702nd, 703rd, 709th and 713th meetings, on 11, 16 and 18 June.

90. On the question of accreditation, the Committee reached agreement on how best to proceed as set out in the note entitled "Input from informal consultations to the report of the NGO Committee".

91. The Chairman of the Committee requested the Vice-Chairman, Ms. Joyce Duffy (Ireland), to undertake informal consultations on the issue of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, including consideration of the letter received from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

92. Three rounds of informal consultations were held as a first step in identifying areas of agreement and areas requiring further consideration. While some discussion of the issue had taken place in 1998, it was acknowledged that the letter from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights had added to the urgency for the Committee to consider the issue as comprehensively as possible. It was also important to be aware of the General Assembly process as set out in the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements and practices for the interaction of non-governmental organizations in all activities of the United Nations system (A/53/170).

93. All members of the Committee reiterated their full support for the continued participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations. It was necessary to examine how to make their participation more effective. It was agreed that there was a need to consult with the non-governmental organization community in the examination of issues and to cooperate together to identify solutions. It might be useful to conduct inter-sessional consultations with non-governmental organizations on certain issues.

94. The Committee used the specific issues outlined in the letter from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights as a framework for its initial informal consultations. With regard to the number of non-governmental organizations participating in the Council's subsidiary bodies and also the names of the non-governmental organizations, the Committee considered that those issues were more appropriate for the consideration and decision of the respective bodies. Specific difficulties with regard to names used by non-governmental organizations could, of course, be addressed by the Committee in the context of the quadrennial reports. On the issue of safeguards against possible abuse by non-governmental organizations, the Committee was confident that the procedures contained in the Council resolution 1996/31 provided adequate means to address incidents of abuse. Members also requested that complaints of abuse by non-governmental organizations received by the bureau of each functional commission, complaints received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and those received by the United Nations Secretariat should be transmitted to the Committee. The remaining two issues - the composition of non-governmental organization delegations and the number of non-governmental organizations an individual may represent at a particular session - required further discussion within the Committee.

95. Members of the Committee wished to emphasize the accountability and responsibility of non-governmental organizations for the actions of the members and individuals they accredit. It was suggested that the Committee draft a letter setting out the responsibilities of non-governmental organizations with consultative status, which would be issued on an annual basis to non-governmental organizations along with a copy of Council resolution 1996/31. Members also proposed that the Secretariat examine the

feasibility of conducting annual briefing sessions for non-governmental organizations on that particular issue and the possibility of requesting reports from the Secretary-General and the bureaux of the functional commissions on various aspects of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the functional commissions.

96. The Committee welcomed the approach outlined by the President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) in her presentation, which indicated that CONGO would be undertaking wide-ranging consultations with non-governmental organizations in all regions of the world and with member States to address those concerns. The Committee looked forward to receiving her summary report at its next session.

97. A letter of reply was sent to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, informing her of the deliberations of the informal consultations and assuring her of the Committee's intention to keep the issue under review and to continue its cooperation with the Commission.

D. Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

98. The Committee considered sub-item 6 (d) of its agenda at its 706th meeting, on 15 June. The types of non-governmental organizations whose defining characteristics were not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 were commercial and/or industrial, professional, religious, research and/or educational or government-funded organizations.

99. Several members of the Committee suggested that a precedent had already been set by granting status to those types of organizations. Furthermore, one member of the Committee suggested that the granting of consultative status to industry or commercial-based non-governmental organizations might cause a further imbalance between the number of non-governmental organizations granted consultative status from the North and those granted consultative status from the South, as industry and commercial non-governmental organizations were not only well-financed but were also based primarily in the North. A debate ensued on the definition of a non-governmental organization within the parameters of Council resolution 1996/31, with some members of the Committee suggesting that any organization without government ties could be considered a non-governmental organization. Others objected to that broad definition. It was agreed that the topic should be reconsidered at a future session.

100. At its 1999 session, the Committee deferred decisions on the applications of the following organizations previously deferred from the 1998 resumed session owing to their industrial or commercial nature: International Group of P & I Clubs, International Federation of Inspection Agencies and European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association. For the same reason, the Committee, at its 1999 session, also deferred a decision on the application of the Confederation of German Forest Owners Associations.

101. At its 1999 session, the Committee also deferred decisions on the applications of the following organizations owing to their professional characteristics: Association internationale des traducteurs de conference, Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc. and Working Party "Brussels 1952".

102. The Committee also deferred a decision on the application of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America owing to its religious nature.

103. At its 1999 session, the Committee deferred a decision on the Women's Exchange Programme (E-Quality) which had previously been deferred from the 1998 resumed session. The Committee also deferred a decision on the German Advisory Council on Global Society Change. Decisions on those organizations were deferred owing to a question of government funding.

V. OTHER MATTERS

104. At its 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee, acting in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, had before it, in an informal paper, requests from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council for hearings by the Council in connection with the items on the Council's agenda for its substantive session of 1999.

105. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the organizations listed in the informal paper be heard under the items they had indicated (see E/1995/95).

106. The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, and two organizations in general consultative status - the World Family Organization and the World Federation for World Peace International - had formed coalitions and, by means of regional and international panel discussions, had formulated concrete action-oriented proposals on the theme of the high-level segment. Those organizations then made a request to address the high-level segment of the Council. In addition, the International Association of Lions Clubs, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Movement ATD Fourth World had requested to make statements under other items.

107. Some Committee members indicated that, as this was the first time they had been asked to recommend organizations to make statements before the high-level segment of the Council, they were concerned that this might not fall within the Committee's mandate. Other members noted that, as a decision to recommend organizations wishing to address the Council fell under the Committee's mandate in accordance with paragraph 32 (a) of Council resolution 1996/31, and as they had no difficulty with any of the organizations listed, they could agree to recommend those non-governmental organizations. In response to concerns expressed by some Committee members regarding whether members of the Council had been notified about those requests, other members noted that, if approved, those organizations would only be recommended, and the list of speakers would then be subject to final approval by the Council. Some Committee members indicated the need to ensure adequately represented participation within the high-level segment, noting in particular southern non-governmental organizations.

108. A number of Committee members requested that their concerns be recorded in the report of the Committee. The representative of Algeria indicated that, though that delegation was concerned with the selection process of non-governmental organizations to make statements before the Council, and particularly with the lack of notification to the Council members and to southern non-governmental organizations, it would approve the list of speakers on an exceptional basis. The representative of Cuba expressed similar views. The representative of China indicated that the selection of non-governmental organizations addressing the high-level segment of the Council warranted full consultation with the members of the Council. He indicated that those non-governmental organizations should be fully representative of the various regions and that their statements should be related fully to the high-level theme. The representative of the Sudan noted that the approval of the listed non-governmental organizations should not be taken as a precedence, but owing to the topic of the high-level segment - poverty - that delegation believed that adequate representation by non-governmental organizations from the South needed to be ensured. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic indicated his support for the statements made by the representatives of Algeria, China and Cuba and noted that the issue of requests of non-governmental organizations to address the high-level segment of the Council should have been raised at informal consultations of the Council.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

109. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 18 June 1999. The Committee held 26 meetings (688th to 713th meetings). The session was opened by Mr. Wahid Ben Amor (Tunisia), Chairman.

B. Attendance

110. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America.

111. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Venezuela, Yemen.

112. The Holy See, a non-member State, was also represented by an observer.

113. Palestine, having received a standing invitation to participate as an observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and maintaining a permanent observer mission at Headquarters, was represented by an observer.

114. The following specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

115. The following non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by an observer: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

116. The following non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by an observer: Baha'i International Community.

C. Election of officers

117. At the 688th and 689th meetings, on 1 and 2 June, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Mr. Wahid Ben Amor	(Tunisia)
Vice-Chairmen:	Ms. Joyce Duffy	(Ireland)
	Mr. Hassan Najem	(Lebanon)
	Mrs. Mihaela Blajan	(Romania)
	Mr. Eduardo Tapia	(Chile)

118. At the 697th meeting, on 8 June, it was decided that Ms. Joyce Duffy (Ireland) would also serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

119. At the 688th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.2/1999/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:

   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the 1998 session of the Committee;

   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.

4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and decision 1995/304:

   (a) Consideration of special reports;

   (b) Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat;

   (c) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

   (d) Consideration or organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32

8. Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee to be held in the year 2000

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

E. Resumed 1999 session of the Committee

120. At its 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee decided to recommend that the Council adopt the following draft decision (see chap. I above, draft decision III), which was read out by the Chairman:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of two weeks in order to complete the work of its 1999 session."

121. A statement of conference-servicing implications on the proposal, which was before the Committee, is contained in annex I to the present report.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS 1999 SESSION

122. At its 713th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee adopted the draft report contained in document E/C.2/1999/L.1, as well as in an informal paper, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.

ANNEX I

Statement of conference-servicing implications of a proposed two-week resumed session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

1. Under the terms of the draft decision, the Economic and Social Council would decide to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of two weeks in order to complete the work of its 1999 session.

2. The proposal would entail the servicing of 20 meetings (two meetings per day) with full interpretation services. No additional pre-session documentation is foreseen, but it is assumed that 10 pages of in-session and 30 pages of post-session documentation in six languages would be required.

3. It is envisaged that the meeting will be held in January/February 2000. It is to be understood, however, that the timing of the meeting will be determined in consultation with the substantive secretariat and subject to prior confirmation of availability of conference facilities by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

4. The conference-servicing requirements for the Committee's proposed resumed session are estimated at $176,500 at full cost and would be met within the provisions to be made available by the General Assembly under section 2, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its 1999 session

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.2/1999/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/C.2/1999/2 and Add.1-17	4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the quadrennial reports, 1994-1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31
E/C.2/1999/3	6 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General on special reports
E/C.2/1999/R.2 and Add.1-14 and 17	3 (b)	Memorandum by the Secretary-General on new applications for consultative status
E/C.2/1999/L.1	9	Draft report